stands repealed. Under the provisions of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands Land Revenue and Land Reforms Regulation, 1966 and Rules framed thereunder, the Sub-Divisional Officer (Asstt. Commissioner) is also empowered to sign the licences for allotment of house sites on behalf of the Chief Commissioner (now Leeutenant Governor).

(b) and (c) No such fake licences have come to the Notice of the Andaman and Nicobar Administration. It has also been pointed out by the Andaman and Nicobar Administration that the old records of Port Blair Municipal Area were prepared in Urdu in 1926. Earlier Patwaris used to issue copies of land records in Urdu and English also after translation which were not considered as licences. Patwaris are authorised to issue copies of entries land records under the provisions of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands Land Revenue and Land Reforms Regulation, 1966 and Rules framed thereunder.

Terrorism in Punjab

2405. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons behind recent spurt in terrorist violence in Punjab;

(b) whether ISI hand is suspected in some of the blasts that have taken place since March this year; and

(c) the measures taken to deal with the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) to (c) The Pak ISI with the help of Pak based Sikh terrorists belonging to International Sikh Youth Federation (Rode Group), Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) and Khalistan Commando Force (Panjwar) had planned some spectacular violent action during June, 1997, or thereafter, to destablise the Akali Government in Punjab and ease the pressure of the Security Forces on the militants in Kashmir. The Pak based leaders seem to have assured their activists all possible help from Kashmir militants for accomplishing the task. In pursuance of this, Sikh terrorists in Punjab and Delhi were on the look out for hide outs in Haryana and Delhi to strike at an opportune time. The recent bomb blast in the train near Bhatinda and the shoot-out in a temple in Moga both appeared to be part of this evil design.

Investigating teams of Punjab Police, for Bhatinda train blast and Bagha Purana shoot out which took place on 9.7.97, have made a major break through with arrests of some of the prime suspects.

To counter the recent activities of Pak ISI the following steps have been taken:

(i) Extra vigil is being maintained at public places such as Bus Stands, Railway Stations, Cinema Halls etc. and general public have been alerted about suspicious objects lying unattended at these places.

(ii) Regular exchange of intelligence takes place between the States on the one hand and between these states and the Central Intelligence agencies on the other.

(iii) Barbed Wire fencing and flood lighting on Indo-Pak border in Punjab (except some riverine gaps) and along major parts of border in Rajasthan has been erected. On the line of control and the International Border in the J&K which is a major source of infiltration from across the border, deployment of Army and BSF units have been strengthened on infiltration routes and in interior areas as a second line of defence.

(iv) Effective vigilance all along the Indo-Pak border is maintained through patrolling by BSF with additional support from state police.

(v) Militant cadres in J&K have suffered heavy casualties and many outfits have lost their top ranking leaders. In Punjab a break-through has been achieved in many recent cases and several suspects of left over Punjab militants group who have cross-border linkages have been arrested.

(vi) Vigilance along Indo-Nepal border is also being strengthened.

ULFA Rebel Camps in Bhutan

2406. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ULFA rebels have set up camps in the forests inside the territory of Bhutan for launching violent attacks in Assam;

(b) if so, whether the matter has been taken up with the Government of Bhutan; and

(c) Bhutanese Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The matter has been taken up with the Government of Bhutan and the Bhutanese authorities are extending cooperation.

Freedom Fighters Pension

2407. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the State affairs of pension to freedom fighters in Assam;

(b) if so, how many cases are pending

(c) what action Government propose to take to ensure the payment of pension to all eligible freedom fighters in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) Yes.

(b) All applications received within prescribed time limit i.e. 31.3.1982 from Assam have been considered and decisions communicated to the applicants However, many review petitions and some delayed cases continue to be received. This is an on going process.

(c) Does not arise.

Diversion of Border and Security Ftnds in Assam

2408. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that funds meant for border road and security are being diverted in Assam to check infiltration from Bangladesh;

(b) if so, what is the quantum of such funds; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to check such diversion of funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) Government of Asiam diverted an amount of Rs. 504.82 lakhs to other State Works out of funds released for the construction of Border Roads and Fence upto 31.3.1996.

(c) After considering options like entrusting the execution of works to an agency other than the State Public Works Department in the Technical Committee and the High Level Empowered Committee for the Indo-Bangladesh Border Roads and Fencing Project, the matter was taken up with the State